

## EXPOSING RACISM

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi Mr. Speaker, since the beginning of March, I have introduced articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to document the continued effects racism and discrimination are having on our nation. Although the killings of James Byrd in Jasper, TX, and Isaiah Shoels in Littleton, CO have painfully thrust the acts of overt, violent racists into the national spotlight, the articles I have entered into the RECORD will show, if they do not already, that we can not sit by silently while this cancer grows unchecked.

The origins of our great nation were nascent with promises of freedom, justice, and equality under the law. However, for more than 200 years, the enslavement of Africans and then Jim Crow laws obfuscated our task—our obligation—to make America “one nation under God.” We were blinded to the veracity of inspirational phrases like, “with freedom and justice for all,” “all men are created equal,” and “Epluribus Unim”—from the many one.

However, during the civil rights movement, many brave Americans of all races stepped forward to denounce the laws and systemic bigotry that perpetuated an American version of apartheid. They walked, marched, and “sat-in” in an attempt to reclaim the legacy promised to all of us by our founding fathers. One such person was Linda Brown. In 1951, this little girl was in the third grade. Although there was an elementary school seven blocks from her house, young Linda was forced to walk over a mile to another elementary school. The reason to make a little girl walk through a railroad switch yard on her way to school? She was black and the school located seven blocks from her house was for white students only.

Many years ago, George Santayana wrote, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Because I revere the warning contained in these prescient words, today I am introducing a resolution to recognize the 45th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in Brown versus Board of Education. In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, boldly struck down segregation laws in public schools and upheld the equal protection laws guaranteed to all Americans by the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

However, in the aftermath of that historic decision, many of the freedoms won by the Brown decision have been rolled back or are currently under assault. White flight and a conspicuous attack on our public schools have facilitated the de facto resegregation of our public schools. All of the lessons we should have learned from this important event in our shared American history, seem to be once again eluding us.

I respectfully submit this legislation to remind us all that we have a moral obligation to purge the divisive evil of racism out of the fabric of harmony, justice, and equality that is our shared American legacy. We have a responsibility to not only remember the past, but to learn from it.

If in fact, “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” then Mr. Speaker, I pray that my efforts to document racism in America and to remind our nation of the significance of the Brown versus the Board of Education, wake us from our collective slumber to experience the beauty of our shared destiny.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. NAT GLASS,  
HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND  
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mrs. Meek of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Nat Glass, a survivor of the Holocaust in Poland and, today, a volunteer lecturer at the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach, Florida. Mr. Glass was a student in Poland when the Nazis invaded his country in the pre-dawn of September 1, 1939, the event which ushered in World War II.

In his lectures today at the Holocaust Memorial, Mr. Glass relates how the Nazis created Jewish ghettos, in which the Jewish people were forced into labor for their invaders. In September, 1944, Mr. Glass and his family were packed into cattle cars and shipped to Auschwitz. There, he saw his mother and two sisters for the last time. Mr. Glass later learned that they died of starvation at the Stutthof concentration camp.

Mr. Glass was sold as a slave and sent to Germany, where he worked in a factory. In early May 1945, the laborers were told to dig their own graves. As they were about to be executed, the American Army liberated the factory.

Today, Mr. Nat Glass sees it as his mission to volunteer and to share his story of tragedy, because he has seen what hate can do.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to pay tribute to Mr. Nat Glass, a man who has overcome evil with good.

A TRIBUTE TO CONNIE  
LOUDERBACK AND MEMBERS OF  
THE GOLDEN, ILLINOIS HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Connie Loudermilk and the Golden, Illinois Historical Society for their efforts to preserve Prairie Mills in Golden.

Prairie Mills was built by Henry R. Emming in 1872. It operated for 60 years and served as a key component of Golden and the surrounding area. Today, it serves perhaps an even more important role as a reminder of the way things used to be.

Connie Loudermilk, Randy Kurfman and other members of the Golden Historical Society are working very hard to raise funds and

awareness to help preserve the mill and enhance its prospects for the future.

I want to commend Connie and Randy as well as Jim Simpson, Dave Weese, Bob Teel, Ben Booth and all the other volunteers involved in this worthwhile effort. I also want to thank the Illinois Country Living magazine for featuring Prairie Mills and the Society’s efforts in its January 1999 edition.

The efforts they are making will last for generations to come.

## THE VIEW FROM ROMANIA

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues an excellent article which appeared in the Los Angeles Times on May 10, 1999, calling for NATO to halt the bombing of Yugoslavia and to declare a cease-fire, lest NATO become its own nemesis.

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 10, 1999]

## THE VIEW FROM ROMANIA

BOMBING BY NATO, AN ALLIANCE IN WHICH WE HAVE SO MUCH FAITH, ENSURES WRONG RESULTS WHILE ABANDONING FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS

(By Adrian Nastase)

Romanians have a message for NATO—one that is decidedly pro-NATO, but also may be unpleasant. It is a message of “tough love.”

Halt the bombing of Yugoslavia and declare a cease-fire. Negotiations must be relaunched without any prior conditions on either side, taking into account the tragic evolution of events that has already occurred on the ground.

As an applicant for NATO membership and member of the Partnership for Peace, Romania has opened its air space to alliance aircraft. We are fully supportive of an embargo that pressures Belgrade to cease its actions in Kosovo. We are adamant that Kosovar Albanians should be allowed to return to their homes with their rights guaranteed. War crimes should be investigated and prosecuted.

But, most Romanians now think that the use of force, including the long-term continuation of airstrikes or any forcible ground intervention, will lose everything NATO seeks.

Kosovo will be destroyed; Slobodan Milosevic will remain in power as a wartime leader reinforced by a siege mentality; Macedonia and Albania will be destabilized by refugees and foreign military presence, and anti-Americanism will rise to fever proportions in Greece, Italy and elsewhere.

We want NATO to win politically and morally. We want peace to be ensured by a great alliance and its strongest members. We want dictators to be removed by popular action, and minority rights preserved by diplomacy, incentives and law.

Romanians dream about becoming part of NATO. Our dream has been to enter an alliance that occupies a moral high ground, not one that, by mistake, kills refugees and civilians. We believe that the alliance’s principles have mattered. For years during the communist period, Romania rejected intervention in sovereign states and distanced itself from the Soviet-dominated Warsaw

Pact. Now, an alliance in which we have put so much faith has erred by acting in a manner that ensures all the wrong consequences while abandoning fundamental precepts.

It seems as if NATO now believes that, after destroying Serbian infrastructure, and waiting until all Albanians are expelled from Kosovo, it can recreate order and peace from nothing. Winning militarily from 5,000 meters is being confused tragically with political success.

Romanians have learned important lessons from our own contributions to peacekeeping missions in Angola, Albania and Bosnia. Among these are that preventing conflict is far easier than stopping it and that recreating a status quo is a Gordian knot. We fear, however, that these lessons are being ignored. NATO's potential to keep the peace and to prevent ethnic cleansing before resorting to war, was belated and half-hearted. We hope for more, and have watched with increasing anxiety as air power is unleashed; destroying without solving anything.

Regional capacities to reduce the potential for or intensity of conflict have been ignored. Romania's participation in two costly U.N. embargoes against Iraq and Yugoslavia, plus peacekeeping missions in Angola, Somalia, Albania and Bosnia exhibit Romania's awareness of its role and willingness to sacrifice for principles in which it believes.

Those qualities, however, elicited little interest in Brussels or Washington, where resorting to force seemed preordained.

NATO appears to have changed into an organization prone to use bombs in lieu of diplomats. And, instead of using expansion to address security needs in Europe's most insecure regions—the Balkans and the Baltics, for example—NATO told such countries to wait for security guarantees until war was at our doorstep.

We think that many opportunities for mediating roles have been lost. As the only country bordering on the former Yugoslavia without antagonistic relations with Belgrade, Romanian NATO membership could have increased the probability of successful negotiations with the Serbs.

The denouement of Europe's most recent Balkan war has yet to be scripted. From the neighborhood, however, we can foresee a very discomfiting future: a broken but unrepentant Serbian nationalism, a heavily armed Albanian nation seeking retribution, an embittered Russia harboring imperial memories now convinced of NATO's antipathy, and ample instability.

To say we don't look forward to such a 21st-century environment is far too mild. We are deeply troubled. We thought we were at the gates of an alliance that would preserve peace in our corner of Europe. And, we never, never imagined that negotiations and peacekeeping efforts would be jettisoned to inaugurate a war of such duration and intensity.

But, a way out exists. NATO can declare that it has inflicted sufficient punishment, and is prepared to contribute, but not necessarily command, a peacekeeping force in part of Kosovo to which Albanian refugees are returned and from which Serb army and police units are evacuated. Establishing the size and location of the two zones, and the nature of the international force must be negotiated, but such diplomacy, not cruise missiles, are the path away from disaster.

Romanians are prepared to fulfill useful roles along such a path. But, we must begin to travel down it soon lest NATO becomes its own nemesis.

## CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF OCEAN TOWNSHIP

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to direct the attention of my colleagues to the celebration of Ocean Township's sesquicentennial and the re-enactment of the historic first town meeting.

Created by enabling legislation on February 21, 1849, Ocean Township is a community located in central New Jersey between the mouth of the Shrewsbury South River and the river to Eatontown Landing Creek. The precise boundaries, however, were originally described in relation to farms and properties that no longer exist.

In honor of Ocean Township's founding and its first town meeting on March 13, 1849, the Council sponsored festivities reminiscent of that day a century and a half ago. The mayor and council members dressed up in period costumes while elementary and intermediate students sang songs and recited accounts of life in the mid-nineteenth century.

Mr. Speaker, Ocean Township is just one of the historical treasures in central New Jersey that continues to thrive to this day. I know that the people of the community, by observing and respecting their history, will be well-equipped to face the challenges of a brand new century.

I hope that my colleagues will join me and other central New Jerseyans in extending our congratulations to the people of Ocean Township and wishing them another successful one hundred fifty years.

## TRIBUTE TO JOHN CHIANG

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John Chiang, a dear friend who this year is the recipient of the Legislator of the Year Award from the San Fernando Valley Democratic Party. While I am naturally delighted that John has been selected to receive this prestigious award, I can't say I'm surprised. John is one of the most intelligent, thoughtful and generous people I have ever had the pleasure to know. His wide circle of friends and admirers can attest to his easy-going charm and strong feelings of empathy.

The explanation for John's success in politics is simple; he works very hard, and he is true to himself. People who meet John invariably want to become part of his team.

John's award from the San Fernando Valley Democratic Party is even more impressive when you consider that he was first elected to office only six months ago. In 1997, he was named Acting Member of the California State Board of Equalization. He replaced Brad Sherman, who was elected to Congress.

John immersed himself in the difficult and politically unpopular job of administering tax

policy in California. It says a lot about John that his popularity has actually increased as he has served in this particular post. In 1998, John ran for election to a four-year term on the Board. He won handily in a difficult primary, and then followed that with a smashing victory in the general election. John is now widely regarded as someone with a very bright future in politics.

John is a dedicated public servant, who has become involved with many distinguished organizations and causes. He is a Board Member of Los Angeles Nonprofit Planning Council, an Advisory Council Member of Big Sisters of Los Angeles, and a volunteer attorney for the Los Angeles County Bar Association Hospice AIDS Project. John's many awards for community service include the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Community Service Award and the State Bar of California Board of Governors Pro Bono Service Award.

In the past few months, I have been tremendously impressed by the strength of John, his brothers Robert and Roger, and his mother, Judy, in coping with the loss of their beloved sister and daughter, Joyce. Joyce served as an intern in my San Fernando Valley office, and was a member of my Washington staff from 1992–95. I know how much John and the rest of the Chiang family miss Joyce, who was a very special young woman.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting John Chiang, whose selflessness and compassion inspire us all. I am proud to be his friend.

## TRIBUTE TO SAM DAVIS

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, 1999, a Tribute Dinner will honor Sam Davis for his nearly 40 years as Executive Director of the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders.

As the main force for the founding and continuing efforts of the Association, Sam Davis became an indispensable advocate in Michigan for mental health and for special education programs for children with emotional problems. From the very beginning, he has fostered grass roots activities on behalf of children with special needs. In the early years, it was a difficult struggle as society was still wrestling with denial rather than acknowledgment and treatment of mental problems, especially of our children.

With the help of Sam Davis' leadership and determination, there followed a period of progress. There was a spurt of action, both in the private and public sectors in Michigan. He served on many Boards and Committees, including the Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Services Board Advisory Committee on Children and Youth; Michigan Department of Mental Health Advisory Council on Mental Illness; and Chairperson of the Children's Advisory Council of the Oakland County Community Mental Health Board. He was also appointed to the Child Mental Health Study Group of the Michigan Department of Mental